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THE NEW MUTANTS

FORGET IT, *KITTY!* YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR US *"X-BABIES!"*

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NEW MUTANTS *STARS*

CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD

SCHOOL DAYSZE

AN ESTATE ON GRAYMALKIN LANE, NEAR THE SUBURBAN NEW YORK TOWNSHIP OF SALEM CENTER...

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT *LADY AMARA JULIANA OLIVIA AQUILLA*, LATE OF THE LOST CITY OF *NOVA ROMA*.

THANK YOU, DANIELLE.

WELCOME, CHILD, TO MY *SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...*

...AND TO THE *NEW MUTANTS*.

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YOUR GRACIOUS WELCOME DOES ME HONOR, SIR. I SHALL ENDEAVOR TO ALWAYS BE WORTHY OF IT.

YOUR PARDON, PROFESSOR, BUT... ARE YOU ALSO WHAT I AM -- A *MUTANT?*

YES -- WHICH IS WHY YOUR FATHER PLACED YOU IN MY CHARGE.

COME, WALK WITH ME AWHILE, SO WE CAN GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER.

THIS WON'T BE EASY FOR HER, GUYS. IN ONE LEAP, AMARA'S JUMPING FROM THE FIRST CENTURY TO THE TWENTIETH.

IF SHE NEEDS HELP, DANI, WE'LL GIVE IT TO HER.

WHAT ELSE'RE FRIENDS FOR?

WHAT IS A MUTANT, PROFESSOR?

SOMEONE BORN WITH EXTRA-HUMAN POWERS AND ABILITIES. IN YOUR CASE, IT INVOLVES MANIPULATION OF TECTONIC FORCES.

I, HOWEVER, AM A TELEPATH.

YOU SAID NOTHING, YET I HEARD YOUR WORDS IN MY MIND!

I CAN BOTH PROJECT MY OWN THOUGHTS AND RECEIVE THOSE OF OTHER PEOPLES.

THIS IS YOUR ROOM.

MINERVA!

IT *IS* MY ROOM, EXACT IN EVERY DETAIL!

SOME OF THE MORE PERSONAL ITEMS YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU -- THE REST WAS REPRODUCED FROM A MEMORY-IMAGE I TOOK FROM YOUR MIND.

I FELT THESE FAMILIAR SURROUNDING MIGHT EASE YOUR TRANSITION TO YOUR NEW LIFE AND MAKE YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE, MORE... AT HOME.

PROFESSOR, ARE NONE OF MY THOUGHTS TO BE SECRET, OR SACRED?

THAT WHICH PSIS LIKE MYSELF PRIZE ABOVE ALL ELSE, AMARA, IS *PRIVACY.*

YOUR MIND IS YOUR OWN. I WILL NOT PRY

HE REMINDS ME OF FATHER-- HORRIBLY STERN AND PROPER BUT FAIR AND JUST AS WELL. HE WOULD NEVER HARM-- OR LIE TO-- ME.

I CAN'T GET OVER THIS ROOM. I'VE THIS MAD NOTION THAT IF I CALL OUT...

...MY MAID DIONE WILL BRING CAKES AND WINE.

BUT DIONE IS HALF-A-WORLD AWAY. MY ROOM IN FATHER'S VILLA HAD A VIEW OF MOUNTAINS...

...AND NO MAGIC LAMPS TO TURN NIGHT TO DAY AT THE TOUCH OF A LEVER.

"ELECTRICITY," DANI CALLED IT.

I'VE SO MUCH TO LEARN!

MY IGNORANCE OF THINGS THE OTHERS TAKE FOR GRANTED MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A *SAVAGE!*

WHAT--?!! THAT FAINT RUMBLE-- THE HOUSE IS *SHAKING!*

BLESSED TELLUS, MOTHER OF THE WORLD, WAS THAT *MY* DOING?! LET IT NOT BE SO!

AM I SO POWERFUL THAT MY SLIGHTEST EMOTIONS PROVOKE A RESPONSE FROM WITHIN THE EARTH?!

I MUST MASTER MY FEAR-- AND BANISH IT--OR I WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE!

I SENSED A FLASH OF PANIC FROM AMARA AS THE TREMOR BEGAN-- BUT NOW BOTH HER FEAR AND THE MICRO-'QUAKE ARE SUBSIDING.

I WAS PREPARED TO INTERVENE, TO USE MY PSI-TALENT TO CALM THE GIRL--THANKFULLY, THOUGH, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

UNTIL I'VE ESTABLISHED THE PARAMETERS OF HER ABILITY-- AND SHE'S GAINED SOME MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER IT-- I'D BEST MAINTAIN A CONSTANT, LIGHT RAPPORT WITH HER.

THAT WAY, I CAN MONITOR HER EMOTIONAL STATE AND PREVENT ANY ACCIDENTAL TECTONIC CATASTROPHIES.

CAN I HELP WI' ANYTHING, MISS HUNTER?
YOU CAN CALL ME STEVIE, RAHNE-- HOW'S THAT?
HOW'S TRICKS, CHEF?
I'D RATHER SEND OUT FOR PIZZA OR CHINESE FOOD.
IF YOU'LL NOTICE, STEVIE, THOSE WHO SUGGESTED THIS "WELCOME BARBECUE" FOR AMARA ARE ALSO THE FIRST TO USE THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE CULINARY ARTS...

...TO GET THEMSELVES EXCUSED FROM CHORES THAT'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SHARED BY ALL!
I'M WILLING TO COOK, DANI--
--IF YOU'RE WILLING TO RISK FOOD POISONING.
YOU'RE A BRIGHT LAD, 'BERTO--LEARN!

GOOD EVENING, CLASS-MATES. I HOPE I HAVE NOT KEPT YOU WAITING.
WOW!
I'M *STEVIE HUNTER*, AMARA. I TEACH DANCE.
I'LL ALSO BE HELPING CHARLES WORK WITH ALL YOU KIDS.
MAY HEALTH, LONG LIFE AND PROSPERITY BE YOURS, GENTLE LADY.

WHY, THANK YOU!
SHE LOOKS--MAGNIFICENT! BUT DIDN'T ANY OF YOU TELL HER THIS WAS A PICNIC-- SHE'S DRESSED FOR A ROYAL BANQUET!
I SAID, DINNER. I NEVER IMAGINED SHE'D ASSUME IT WAS FORMAL.

THEY MUST THINK ME AN AWFUL SNOB-- OR WORSE, A FOOL-- TO DON MY LOVELIEST GOWN WHEN THEY WEAR CASUAL CLOTHES.
IF THERE IS FAULT, DEAR LADY, IT IS OURS ALONE.
BUT WELL WORTH IT FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEHOLDING SUCH LOVELINESS AS YOURS.

ROBERTO DaCOSTA, YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL! GIVEN HALF A CHANCE, YOU COULD PROBABLY CHARM ANY WOMAN ALIVE.
THAT RIFF'S WORKING ON AMARA, SHE'S ACTUALLY SMILING.
I WISH HE'D USE IT ONCE ON ME.

THAT SOUND--LIKE THUNDER--??!

AH GOT THE SODAS, Y'ALL.

SAM GUTHRIE!

AMARA, IS THAT--YOU?!?

AH'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO BEAUTIFUL.

HEY, AMARA, WATCH THIS!

PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, huh?

FOR MY NEXT TRICK--!

MOXIE

CANNONBALL, THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR PLACE FOR SUCH A DISPLAY. YOUR ABILITY TO MANEUVER IS NOWHERE NEAR AS ACCOMPLISHED AS YOU BELIEVE.

YOU'RE LOOPING TOO WIDE, SAM! PULL UP, BEFORE YOU--

WHEN SAM USES HIS POWER, IT GRANTS HIM A MEASURE OF INVULNERABILITY--SO HE CAN PLOW INTO OR THROUGH THINGS WITHOUT HURTING HIMSELF.

MOXIE

CRASH!

HIS LANDING, THEREFORE, DOESN'T DO HIM ANY REAL DAMAGE.

OTHERS AREN'T QUITE SO LUCKY.

OH, GEEZ!

AMARA, AH'M REAL SORRY.

DOLT, THIS WAS MY *MOTHER'S*-- ONE OF THE FEW THINGS OF HERS LEFT ME WHEN SHE DIED--

-- AND YOU'VE *RUINED IT!*

MAYBE NOT. THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO CLEAN IT, TO MAKE THE GOWN GOOD AS NEW.

DON'T BE UPSET, AMARA. SAM DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE, THE KLUTZ, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

AMARA, WAIT-- YYIIIII!!

I HAVE YOU, DANI!

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, 'BERTO-- CATCH UP WITH AMARA BEFORE SHE TEARS THE ESTATE APART!

LAVA--SPURTING OUT OF THE FISSURE-- IT'S SET THAT OAK ABLAZE!

GET UNDER COVER, EVERY-ONE, BEFORE THAT MOLTEN ROCK CAN BURN YOU!

LEAVE THIS TO ME!

I'LL GET RID OF IT!

ROBERTO ISN'T THAT MUCH BIGGER THAN RAHNE, BUT WHEN HE TRANSFORMS TO SUNSPOT...

...THE RAW ENERGY OF THE SUN HYPES HIS STRENGTH TO AN ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE DEGREE, ENABLING HIM TO TOSS A HUNDRED-YEAR OLD OAK OVER A HALF-MILE INTO THE LAKE BEHIND XAVIER'S MANSION.

AT THE SAME TIME, RAHNE SINCLAIR SHAPE-SHIFTS FROM GIRL TO WOLF-- HER ENHANCED LUPINE SENSES IMMEDIATELY SPOTTING AMARA'S TRAIL INTO THE WOODS THAT CROWD THE ESTATE.

THE MOMENT RAHNE BECOMES A WOLF, THE SPECIAL RAPPORT BETWEEN HER AND DANI FLASHES INTO EXISTENCE...

... ALLOWING THE TWO MUTANTS TO SHARE EACH OTHERS' THOUGHTS...

... AND MAKING IT AS EASY FOR DANI TO FOLLOW RAHNE...

... AS FOR THE YOUNG SCOT TO FOLLOW AMARA.

HER QUARRY HASN'T RUN FAR.

SHUSH, RAHNE-- DON'T LET HER KNOW WE'RE HERE.

SHE WANTS TO BE ALONE, SO WE'LL LET HER WORK THINGS OUT FOR HERSELF, AT LEAST FOR NOW. WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER, THOUGH, IN CASE SHE NEEDS US.

I COULD HAVE SLAIN THEM ALL. I DIDN'T WANT TO-- BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! I... I LOST MY TEMPER AND THINGS HAPPENED?!

WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE?! SUPPOSE MY POWERS CAN NEVER BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL?! SUPPOSE SOME-ONE IS HARMED-- OR KILLED-- BECAUSE OF ME?!

NO, I MUSTN'T DESPAIR! XAVIER IS HELPING THE NEW MUTANTS-- AND HAS TAUGHT OTHER MUTANTS IN THE PAST, DANI TOLD ME SO-- HE CAN DO THE SAME WITH ME.

HE MUST...

... FOR IF HE FAILS...

... I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO LIVE.

INTERLUDE: THE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PROJECT WIDEAWAKE...

...TO WHICH THIS EVENING HAVE COME ITS DIRECTOR, HENRY PETER GYRICH, DR. VALERIE COOPER (AIDE TO PRESIDENTAL NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, JUDGE RICHARD PETRIE)...

...AND BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST SEBASTIAN SHAW...

...WHOSE COMPANIES ARE PRIME CONTRACTORS FOR THE LATEST LINE OF MUTANT-HUNTING SENTINELS.

THE IRONY IS THAT SHAW IS A MUTANT HIMSELF, LEADER OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S SECRET INNER CIRCLE -- A CABAL DEDICATED TO THE CONQUEST OF THE WORLD.

VERY IMPRESSIVE, HENRY.

WHERE SENTINELS ARE CONCERNED, DOCTOR, APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING. WE HAVE YET TO PRODUCE ONE CAPABLE OF HOLDING ITS OWN AGAINST ANY MUTANT FOE.

INITIATE THIS TEST SEQUENCE, TECHNICIAN.

WE LEARN FROM FAILURE AS MUCH AS SUCCESS. EVENTUALLY, WE'LL GET IT RIGHT.

"EVENTUALLY", Mr. SHAW, MAY BE TOO LATE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

MALFUNCTION!

THE ROBOT'S GOING WILD!!

A ROGUE OPERATOR'S PENETRATED THE COMMAND COMPUTER SYSTEM -- IT'S TAKEN OVER THE SENTINEL!

DO SOMETHING, MAN -- BEFORE IT BRINGS THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION DOWN ABOUT OUR EARS!

WE'RE TRYING TO REGAIN CONTROL, SIR -- BUT THE ROGUE'S LOCKED US OUT! ALL OF OUR COMMAND PROGRAMS ARE BEING BYPASSED AND NEUTRALIZED!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! CUT ALL OUTSIDE ACCESS TO OUR COMPUTERS -- SHUT DOWN THE ENTIRE SYSTEM IF YOU HAVE TO -- TO SEVER THE ROGUE'S LINK WITH THE SENTINEL.

NO GOOD, SIR --

-- IT'S SWITCHED TO INDEPENDENT OPERATION. IT'LL KEEP OBEYING THE ORDERS THE ROGUE GAVE IT.

THEN I'VE NO CHOICE...

... BUT TO RESORT TO THE *SELF-DESTRUCT!*

BOOM!

THIS IS MORE THAN A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR SENTINEL DOWN THE DRAIN -- IT'S AN ATTACK ON THE *FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!*

I WANT THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE -- TRACE THE COMPUTER THAT ACCESSED OUR NETWORK, ANY WAY YOU CAN, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!

WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THOSE JOKERS, SO HELP ME --

-- I'LL MAKE THEM WISH THEY'D NEVER BEEN *BORN!*

FAR REMOVED FROM THE CHAOS AT PROJECT WIDEAWAKE...

WELL, PARTNER, WHATEVER SYSTEM WE ACCESSED TONIGHT JUST WENT OFF-LINE WITH A BANG. IF WE CRASHED IT, KITTY, ITS OPERATORS ARE GOING TO BE REAL MAD.

CAN THEY TRACE US, DOUG?

I DON'T THINK SO. WE CAME IN THROUGH A BACK-DOOR, CAUGHT THEM BY SURPRISE. YOU CAN BET THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?

CURIOSITY, MAINLY--

-- ABOUT A BIGSHOT TYCOON NAMED *SEBASTIAN SHAW* AND THAT KINKY CLUB HE BELONGS TO.

I WISH I COULD TELL DOUG THE WHOLE TRUTH, THAT SHAW'S A MUTANT-- LIKE ME -- ONE OF THE X-MEN'S DEADLIEST FOES.

AT THE RISK OF BEING OBVIOUS, CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT.

WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE NINE LIVES, SILLY.

IF YOU SAY SO.

THIS IS VERY WEIRD. A... CONTACT OF MINE ON THE HACKER NETWORK GETS US THE ENTRY CODE TO THE SHAW INDUSTRIES COMPUTER SYSTEM.

FROM THERE, WE MAKE OUR WAY INTO THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*. I THINK I DECIPHER SHAW'S PRIVATE EXECUTIVE CODE, BUT THE FIRST TIME WE TRY IT...

... WE DON'T ACCESS CLUB OR CORPORATION, BUT SOME KIND'A GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

DOES THIS MEAN SHAW AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE WORKING TOGETHER?

DO THEY KNOW WHO AND WHAT HE REALLY IS, OR IS HE PLAYING THEM FOR SUCKERS?!

I DUNNO ABOUT YOU, PAL, BUT I'M FAMISHED!

NO WONDER. WE'VE BEEN AT THIS NON-STOP FOR HOURS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE IMPROVEMENTS YOU'VE MADE TO MY HARDWARE.

I GIVE 'EM THE VOICE, DOUG...

...BUT YOU MAKE 'EM SING.

ME STRADIVARIUS, YOU ITZHAK PERLMAN.

GROAT CHIPS

THE TEAM SUPREME?

YOUR FOLKS ARE DIVORCED?

LAST SPRING.

EVERYONE'S VERY PRICKLY. THEY DON'T LIKE IT. THEY'RE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS -- THEY'RE ANGRY, THEY'RE SAD, AS SCARED OF GOING FORWARD AS GOING BACK.

THAT'S LOUSY. BUT YOU SEEM TO BE HANDLING IT OKAY.

APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING -- OHMIGOSH!!!

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THIS LATE. I GOTTA RUN!

SEE YOU TOMORROW?

AFTER DANCE CLASS -- TAKE CARE, DOUG!

KITTY, RETURN TO THE MANSION IMMEDIATELY!

ALREADY ON MY WAY, PROFESSOR. I'LL BE AS QUICK AS I CAN!

GOOD THING IT'S SO DARK.

WITH LUCK, DOUG DIDN'T SEE ME PHASE THROUGH THE RAMSEY'S BACK-YARD WALL.

IF I FOLLOW THE ROAD, IT'LL TAKE FOREVER.

I'D BETTER CUT CROSS-COUNTRY.

I SHOULDN'T INVOLVE DOUG IN X-MEN BUSINESS, EVEN PERIPHALLY...

...BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR...

...HIS SKILL WITH COMPUTER LANGUAGES. I *NEED* HIM -- *huh?!?*

SOMEONE'S CRYING.

IT'S THAT NEW KID FROM BRAZIL: AMARA. SHE LOOKS REALLY UPSET.

HI!

I'M *KITTY PRYDE*. I'M ONE OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S STUDENTS, TOO.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I ... NEED NO ASSISTANCE, THANK YOU.

I WOULD PREFER TO BE LEFT TO MYSELF.

SHE'S MY AGE. SHE SOUNDS AWFULLY LONELY. HECK, I REMEMBER HOW HOMESICK I WAS MY FIRST MONTHS HERE--IN AMARA'S CASE, IT'S PROBABLY A LOT WORSE.

YOU SURE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO?

ARE YOU DEAF, GIRL-- DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID?!!

I WANT TO BE *ALONE!*

HEY, I'M SORRY-- THERE'S NO NEED TO GET HYPER

LOT OF GOOD I WAS. IT ALWAYS HAPPENS THIS WAY-- WHENEVER I TRY TO TALK TO SOMEONE MY OWN AGE I SCREW IT UP. OUTSIDE THE X-MEN, I DON'T SEEM TO FIT ANYWHERE...

...EXCEPT WITH DOUG. WE MESH REAL WELL.

BUT WHAT EFFECT WILL OUR FRIENDSHIP HAVE ON MY RELATIONSHIP WITH *PETER RASPUTIN?*

I LOVE PETER.

SUPPOSE I START TO LOVE DOUG, TOO-- *oh!?!*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN, Ms. PRYDE.

FROM WHAT I SAW OF AMARA, Mr. DaCOSTA--

--SHE CAN TAKE PRETTY GOOD CARE OF HERSELF.

YOU GUYS ARE ACTING AWFULLY TOUCHY.

ARE YOU SURPRISED?

YOU'VE MADE NO SECRET OF YOUR DISLIKE FOR US "*X-BABIES.*"

IT SORT'A MAKES TONIGHT'S SUDDEN SOLICITUDE RING A LITTLE HOLLOW, Y'KNOW?

I CAN TAKE A HINT.

DO BETTER THAN THAT. TAKE A HIKE.

KATHERINE!

I WILL BROOK NO FURTHER DELAY!

REPORT TO MY OFFICE!

OCH, DANI, THE PROFESSOR SOUNDED VERRA ANGRY.

KITTY MAY BE A PAIN, DANI, BUT I WOULDN'T BE IN HER SHOES NOW...

...FOR THE WORLD.

YOU HAD A TRAINING SESSION SCHEDULED FOR THIS EVENING.

IT ISN'T THE FIRST YOU'VE MISSED, KITTY. FOR ALL THAT YOU'RE AN X-MAN, WE STILL KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF YOUR PHASING POWERS.

I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE. WHEN DOUG AND I ARE WORKING, WE TEND TO LOSE TRACK OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

KITTY, NO ONE IS MORE PLEASED THAN I...

...TO SEE YOU MAKING FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL, AND EXERCISING YOUR INTELLECT TO ITS FULLEST CAPACITY. BUT WHEN YOU JOINED THE X-MEN, YOU CHOSE TO ACCEPT CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOUR TEAM-MATES' LIVES DEPEND ON YOU, AS YOURS DOES ON THEM.

YOU MUST DECIDE, YOUNG LADY, WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE PREPARED TO HONOR THOSE OBLIGATIONS.

FURTHERMORE, THIS IDIOTIC FEUD BETWEEN YOU AND THE NEW MUTANTS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. NOVICES THEY MAY BE, BUT HARDLY "X-BABIES"--ESPECIALLY WHEN TWO OF THEM ARE OLDER THAN YOU.

IS THAT ALL, SIR?

THINK BACK ON HOW YOU FELT, WHEN YOU FIRST REALIZED WHO AND WHAT YOU WERE--

--THE EXCITEMENT, AND THE TERROR.

HELP THE MUTANTS. PERHAPS, IN DOING SO, YOU'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO COME TO TERMS WITH YOURSELF.

I'LL... TRY, SIR.

IF YOU WANT ME, I'LL BE IN MY ROOM.

KITTY WANTED SO BADLY TO BE AN X-MAN. SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE'S HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.

HER ROOM-MATE *ILLYANA* IS UPSTAIRS. THEY'RE BEST FRIENDS. I HOPE KITTY TALKS THINGS OUT WITH HER.

I WISH AMARA HAD SUCH A CONFIDENCE.

THE NIGHT'S GETTING CHILL.

AS SOON AS SHE'S ASLEEP, I'LL HAVE THE MUTANTS PUT HER TO BED.

THAT REMINDS ME, I MUST SCHEDULE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ROBERTO AND RAHNE.

MOBSTERS INJECTED THEM WITH A TERATOGENETIC DRUG -- A SYNTHETIC MUTAGEN -- DESIGNED TO REPLICATE THE PROCESS THAT CREATED *CLOAK* AND *DAGGER*.*

THE CHEMICAL WAS SUPPOSEDLY BURNED OUT OF THEIR SYSTEMS -- BY THOSE SELFSAME MYSTERY BEINGS -- BUT I HAVE TO BE CERTAIN THERE ARE NO LONG-TERM AFTER-EFFECTS.

MY TASK WOULD BE EASIER IF I KNEW PRECISELY WHAT IT DID TO CLOAK AND DAGGER. SHOULD I OR THE X-MEN ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THEM?

*SEE MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #6 -- LOUISE.

OR SHOULD I LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE? THEY REFUSED CANNONBALL'S INVITATION TO JOIN THE SCHOOL.

Ahhh, LILANDRA. I COULD USE YOUR ADVICE, MY DARLING.

OR JUST YOUR PRESENCE --

--A'OWWW!

THE SCANNING WAVE!* AGAIN, IT ERUPTS FROM NOWHERE, WITHOUT WITHOUT WARNING, TO DISAPPEAR AS SUDDENLY AS IT ARRIVED!

*FIRST FELT IN X-MEN #178 -- L.

THIS CONTACT WAS MORE INTENSE -- AND PAINFUL. AND I'M NO CLOSER TO LEARNING ITS ORIGIN OR PURPOSE.

I SHOULD DEVOTE ALL MY ENERGIES TO SOLVING THIS MYSTERY -- BUT IF I DO, WHO WILL LOOK AFTER MY STUDENTS?

MY OBLIGATIONS BIND ME AS TIGHTLY AS KITTY. UNTIL I'M CERTAIN THIS REPRESENTS A THREAT I WILL KEEP ON AS BEFORE.

YOU LOOK A LITTLE GREY THIS MORNING, PROFESSOR.

I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP, DANI-- A HEADACHE.

THIS DARN MACHINE'S DOIN' ITS LEVEL BEST T' GIVE ME ONE, PROFESSOR.

EACH TIME I THINK I'VE GOT IT FIGURED OUT, IT TRIPS ME UP.

THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO IT, SAM.

C'MON, HOTSHOT-- YOU WERE WEANED ON THESE MONSTERS.

MERELY ONE OF MANY TALENTS, *MENINA*.

CHEER UP, SAM. THINGS AREN'T THAT BAD.

AH FEEL SO... OUTCLASSED, SIR.

I'LL CUE YOU TELEPATHICALLY, STEP-BY-STEP THROUGH THE LESSON.

THIS IS *MAGIC!* I PRESS THIS SQUARE-- AND A LETTER APPEARS ON THE GLASS BEFORE ME!

HONORED TEACHER, WOULD YOU EXPLAIN?

GLADLY, AMARA.

AND SOON...

AMARA'S A BARBARIAN, A HEATHEN SAVAGE-- BUT SHE GETS THE HANG O' THESE GADGETS FAR FASTER'N ME.

IT'S TIME I FACED FACTS. I'M AS STUPID AS I AM UGLY.

"IF I'M ACCEPTED HERE, IT'S B'CAUSE I'M A WEREWOLF, NA' B'CAUSE I'M ME."

HOW CAN RAHNE THINK THAT? IT JUST ISN'T SO. BUT HOW DO I CONVINCE THE POOR GIRL?

THEIR ACADEMIC CLASSES OVER, THE KIDS HIKE INTO SALEM CENTER, FOR A TWO-HOUR SESSION AT STEVIE HUNTER'S DANCE STUDIO...

VERY NICE, AMARA. YOU'VE HAD TRAINING?

WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.

Ah, BUT STEVIE, FR ALL HER FANCY SCHOOLING, CAN YON LASSIE DO-- *THIS?!*

ARE YOU *CRAZY*, GIRL?!! WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOIN'*, SHOWIN' OFF YOUR POWERS LIKE THAT IN *PUBLIC!?!*

SUPPOSE SOMEONE SAW YOU, HOW'D YOU EXPLAIN YOURSELF, huh?!!

MUST WE FOREVER HIDE WHAT WE ARE?! IS BEING A MUTANT SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, OR FORBIDDEN?

AYE.

COOL IT, SAM. IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO WANT TO SHOW OFF, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

HECK, PRYDE, YOU DO THAT JUST BY BREATHING.

Oh, BROTHER!

IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO, RAHNE, I GOT YELLED AT BY ORORO FOR THE SAME KIND OF STUNT. SOME OF US HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY-- BUT WE ALL SURVIVE.

WANT TO GRAB A SODA AT THE MALL?

GREAT! 'BYE, STEVIE-- SEE Y'ALL LATER!

OF US ALL, I SHOULD KNOW THE DANGER WE FACE AS MUTANTS. MY FELLOW VILLAGERS IN SCOTLAND BELIEVED ME T' BE A DEMON. THEY HUNTED ME LIKE AN ANIMAL. THEY'D HA' KILLED ME, TOO, IF NOT FOR MY GODMOTHER-- *LADY MOIRA*.

YOU'D NA' THINK I'D FORGET A LESSON LIKE THAT -- BUT I DID.

I... I'M SORRY, STEVIE. I'LL NO' BE SO CARELESS AGAIN.

LATER... KITTY AND RAHNE ARE FLIP SIDES OF THE SAME COIN-- EACH JEALOUS BECAUSE THEY SEE THEIR PLACE THREATENED BY NEW ARRIVALS. EACH OF THEM IS SO INSECURE--AND THE TERRIBLE IRONY IS, THEY'VE NO REASON TO BE.

EASY FOR ME TO SAY. THE HARD PART'S MAKING THEM BELIEVE IT.

MONITOR SYSTEMS ARE SET, CHARLES.

THANK YOU, STEVIE.

HOW DOES YOUR UNIFORM FIT, AMARA?

PERFECTLY.

SPLENDID. THIS IS CALLED THE DANGER ROOM.

IT IS HERE THAT YOU WILL UNDERGO THE BULK OF YOUR TRAINING AS MAGMA.

THE CODE-NAME IS TO PROTECT BOTH YOUR REAL IDENTITY AND THE SCHOOL'S TRUE FUNCTION SHOULD YOU NEED TO USE YOUR POWERS IN PUBLIC.

SINCE YOUR TALENT INVOLVES THE MANIPULATION OF LAVA AND TECTONIC FORCES, "*MAGMA*" SEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE.

WHAT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU DO TODAY IS BURN THROUGH THIS BLOCK OF STEEL, A BASIC DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR POWER.

PROFESSOR, I'M NOT SURE I CAN. IF I LOSE CONTROL, AS I'VE DONE BEFORE...

YOU NEED HAVE NO FEAR OF THAT. I'LL BE MONITORING THE SITUATION TELEPATHICALLY...

YOU'LL BE INSIDE MY MIND? BUT YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER DO THAT!

IT'S FOR YOUR PROTECTION, CHILD.

I CANNOT TEACH YOU UNTIL I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT YOU CAN DO...

...AND THE PHYSICAL OR PSIONIC MECHANISM THAT ALLOWS IT. YOU YOURSELF ARE WORRIED ABOUT THINGS GETTING OUT OF HAND...

BUT I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D COME INTO MY MIND!

IS THIS WHAT YOUR WORD IS WORTH?!

I WILL NOT BE LIED TO!

AND I AM NOT A SLAVE, TO BE PARADED ABOUT AND MADE TO PERFORM ON COMMAND! I AM A FREEBORN CITIZEN OF *NOVA ROMA* -- AND I DEMAND TO BE TREATED AS ONE!

AMARA, WAIT--!

AMARA!

LATER STILL...

HE KEPT CALLING, BUT I REFUSED TO LISTEN--EITHER WITH MY EARS OR MY THOUGHTS. HE COULD HAVE FORCED ME TO HIS SIDE...

...BUT HE HAS NOT--THAT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING.

HE IS NOT AN EVIL MAN--FAR FROM IT.

HE HAS TREATED ME WITH COURTESY AND KINDNESS...

...WHY CAN I NOT REPAY HIM IN KIND?

WHY AM I SO AFRAID?

PARTLY, IT IS HIM. THE PROFESSOR'S POWER MAKES HIM...

...HARDLY SEEM HUMAN.

PARTLY, IT IS ME--NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OF WHAT I CAN DO WITH MY POWER.

BUT OF WHAT HE MIGHT SEE--BY ACCIDENT OR DESIGN--IN THE SECRET CHAMBERS OF MY HEART AND SOUL.

NOT REALIZING I SPOKE ENGLISH...

...RAHNE POURED OUT HER HEART TO ME--

--SPOKE OF THINGS SHE'D NEVER DARE TELL ANYONE ELSE--SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD SHE SAID.*

ONLY I *DID* UNDERSTAND. SHE'S NEVER FORGIVEN ME FOR THAT.

I FEEL SO VULNERABLE--SO ALIEN. I LIKE THE NEW MUTANTS, BUT I DO NOT FIT IN WITH THEM, NOT HERE--ANY MORE THAN THEY WOULD IN *NOVA ROMA*.

I'M SORRY, FATHER. I TRIED MY BEST, BUT I JUST DON'T BELONG --*eh ?!!*

*WHEN THEY FIRST MET IN NM #8 -- L.

Bullpen Bulletins SPECIAL

Greetings, faithful one!

It's me again — two-fisted Tom DeFalco, *mighty Marvel's very own Executive Editor. My guests today are* Mark Gruenwald, Mike Carlin, *and* Eliot R. Brown *— those wonderful folks who've been bringing you THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. Needless to say, this handbook has been creating quite a stir among fans and pros alike . . .*

TOM: *We might as well start at the beginning. Who came up with the idea of doing* The Handbook?
MARK: It was originally Jim Shooter's idea. He told me that he thought of it because he was always receiving mail from readers who asked all sorts of technical questions.
ELIOT: Things like "Can Spider-Man's webbing conduct electrical impulses?"
MIKE: "How does the Angel fly?"
MARK: "How far can Mr. Fantastic stretch?"
MIKE: "Can Ben Grimm eat an entire six-foot hero sandwich without belching?"
TOM: *Er, yes . . .*
MARK: *The Handbook*'s working title was THE MARVEL SUPER-SPECIFICATIONS HANDBOOK.
ELIOT: But "specifications" sounds too formal.
MARK: And it made for a bad logo design.
MIKE: Besides, we couldn't find a letterer who knew how to spell it.
MARK: And you know how Jim Shooter reacts every-time he hears the word, "super."
MIKE: It's pitiful.
ELIOT: He must have had a very traumatic experience with that word when he was but a mere slip of a boy.
TOM: *Never mind that. I want to learn more about* The Handbook.
MARK: I appropriated the title, "MARVEL UNIVERSE," from Al Milgrom. It was one of the working titles he originally had for MARVEL FANFARE.
ELIOT: And, of course, we called it the "Official" handbook because it was produced by Marvel.
MIKE: It doesn't contain any of the same, old, stupid, ridiculous blunders an outsider would make.
ELIOT: No, since we know the Marvel Universe so intimately, we were able to create NEW stupid, ridiculous blunders for our readers.
MARK: Contrary to what you might have read elsewhere, the She-Hulk's height is NOT six hundred and fifty pounds.
TOM: *I suppose you intend to correct those errors.*
MARK: Sure, we'll be constantly updating *The Handbook . . .*
MIKE: . . . In new and different formats!
MARK: Our readers have been very helpful, pointing out the mistakes in the first twelve issues of *The Handbook.*
ELIOT: Yes, it's so rewarding to receive a few thousand letters each morning . . .
MIKE: . . . Which tell you what a jerk you are.
TOM: *Who decided which characters would be featured in* The Handbook?
MARK: I did. As the editor of the project, it was my responsibility to decide which characters received a full page entry, which ones got a half page — who made it to the appendix, and who didn't.
MIKE: He deliberately excluded Devil Dinosaur!
ELIOT: The RAT!
MARK: I came up with a master list of characters who were currently active in the Marvel Universe.
TOM: *Did you receive any complaints?*
MARK: Thousands!
ELIOT: Tens of thousands!
MIKE: Hundreds of tens of thousands!
TOM: *I think I'm beginning to get the picture.*
MARK: The response was so great that we were forced to publish a thirteenth and fourteenth issue of *The Handbook* which featured dead and inactive characters . . . *The Marvel Books Of The Dead!*
TOM: *If you had given every character in the Marvel Universe his own full page entry, how many issues of* The Handbook *would you need?*
MARK: At least fifty.
ELIOT: New characters are appearing every day.
MIKE: We'd never finish!
TOM: *I know this project took a lot of work.*
MARK: Mike, Eliot and I used to have to camp out in this office for two entire weekends out of every month.
ELIOT: I had to stay more often!
MIKE: But Eliot doesn't count . . .
MARK: . . . Except up to ten!
ELIOT: One, two, three . . .
MIKE: Our motto was, "Long hours — no showers!"
MARK: We used to make food runs at two and six o'clock in the morning.
MIKE: Not many sandwich shops are opened at that hour.
MARK: But we found them all!
ELIOT: And I still have the heartburn to prove it!
MARK: We had a team of writers who did most of the actual research work, but the three of us still had to spend long hours rewriting and correcting the entries . . . In addition to working on the other editorial projects we had . . . like the monthly issues of *Iron Man, Captain America, Thor,* and *The Avengers.*
MIKE: After the editorial work was completed on each entry, it still had to be typeset, photostated and pasted-up by Danny Crespi's production department.
ELIOT: And then, came the proofreading . . .
TOM: *Doesn't sound like you guys had much fun.*
MARK: Oh, we had our share of fun.
MIKE: We used to compose songs and limericks featuring whichever character we were currently working on.
MARK: "Orka-Dorca-Doo" was my personal favorite.
TOM: *"Orka-Dorca-Doo?"*
ELIOT: That song used to produce gales of laughter.
MARK: Of course, it sounded a lot funnier at five o'clock in the morning.
MIKE: Most things do.
TOM: *Well, now that you have finished your twelve issue run of* The Official Handbook Of The Marvel Universe . . . *your two issues of* The Marvel Book Of The Dead . . . *and your* Marvel Book Of Weapons . . . *what do you have planned next?*
MARK: Sleep.
ELIOT: A lot of it.
MIKE: Yeah!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

☐ **THE THING #9** — Written by JOHN BYRNE. Breakdowns by RON WILSON. Finishes by JOE SINNOTT.
☐ **DAREDEVIL #204** — Written by DENNY O'NEIL. Pencils by LUKE McDONNELL. Inks by DANNY BULANADI.
☐ **NEW MUTANTS #13** — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by TOM MANDRAKE.
☐ **DAZZLER #31** — Written by JIM SHOOTER. Pencils by FRANK SPRINGER. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.
☐ **CONAN THE KING #21** — Written by ALAN ZELENETZ. Pencils by MARK SILVESTRI. Inks by DAVE SIMON. Cover by MIKE KALUTA.
☐ **OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #14** — The Book of the Dead and Disabled, Part II. With art by WALT SIMONSON, JOHN BYRNE, and others.
☐ **SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL SPECIAL EDITION #1** — Reprinting FRANK MILLER's very first Daredevil stories from Peter Parker #'s 27 and 28.
☐ **G. I. JOE #21** — Written and breakdowns by LARRY HAMA. Finishes by STEVE LEIALOHA.
☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #260** — Written by ROGER STERN. Breakdowns by JOHN ROMITA, JR. Inks by KLAUS JANSON.
☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #291** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils by HERB TRIMPE. Inks by JACK ABEL.
☐ **THOR #361** — Written, penciled and inked by WALT SIMONSON.
☐ **INDIANA JONES #15** — Written by DAVE MICHELINIE. Pencils by HERB TRIMPE. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.
☐ **MOON KNIGHT #28** — Written by ALAN ZELENETZ. Pencils and inks by BO HAMPTON.
☐ **MICRONAUTS #57** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils by BUTCH GUICE. Inks by KELLY JONES.
☐ **CRYSTAR #6** — Written by JO DUFFY. Pencils by RICARDO VILLAMONTE. Inks by DAVE SIMONS.
☐ **X-MEN/MICRONAUTS (Limited Series) #3** — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BILL MANTLO. Pencils by BUTCH GUICE. Inks by BOB WIACEK.
☐ **MAGIK (Illyana and Storm Limited Series) #3** — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by TOM PALMER.
☐ **DR. STRANGE SPECIAL EDITION #1** — Reprinting the stunning LEE/DITKO classics from Strange Tales #'s 130-132. Plus, a wraparound cover by JOHN BYRNE, and an introduction by STAN LEE.
☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #260** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by GERRY TALAOC.
☐ **AVENGERS #241** — Written by ROGER STERN. Breakdowns by AL MILGROM. Finishes by JOE SINNOTT.
☐ **CONAN #188** — Plot and breakdowns by JOHN BUSCEMA. Script by MICHAEL FLEISHER. Finishes by ERNIE CHAN.
☐ **MARVEL TALES #181** — Reprinting "The Goblin and the Gangsters," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from Amazing Spider-Man #23.
☐ **X-MEN #179** — Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Breakdowns by JOHN ROMITA, JR. Inks by DAN GREEN.
☐ **ROM #52** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by MEL CANDIDO.
☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #103** — Written by ARCHIE GOODWIN. Penciled by GREG LaROQUE. Inks by ANDY MUSHYNSKY.
☐ **ELEKTRA SAGA #2** — Re-presenting the incredible story of the girl Daredevil loved. Written and drawn by FRANK MILLER, with inks by KLAUS JANSON, plus pages never seen before in color, and a new cover by MILLER.
☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #284** — Written, penciled and inked by JOHN BYRNE.
☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #139** — Spider-Man and Nick Fury. Written by CARY BURKETT. Pencils by BRIAN POSTMAN. Inks by Mike Esposito.
☐ **IRON MAN #189** — Written by DENNY O'NEIL. Pencils by LUKE McDONNELL. Inks by STEVE MITCHELL.
☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #88** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Breakdowns by AL MILGROM. Finishes by JIM MOONEY.
☐ **DEFENDERS #139** — Written by J.M. DeMATTEIS. Pencils by DON PERLIN. Inks by KIM DeMULDER.
☐ **STAR WARS #81** — Written by JO DUFFY. Breakdowns by RON FRENZ. Finishes by TOM PALMER.
☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #6** — Written, penciled and inked by JOHN BYRNE.
☐ **HERCULES (Limited Series) #1** — Written, penciled and inked by BOB LAYTON.
☐ **JACK OF HEARTS (Limited Series) #1** — Written by BILL MANTLO. Pencils and inks by GEORGE FREEMAN.
☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA SPECIAL EDITION #2** — Featuring the stunning STERANKO Captain Americas. With STAN LEE, from C. A. #113, plus a Captain America/Nick Fury tale from Strange Tales, and a new cover by STERANKO.
☐ **MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION #4** — Re-printing the early Micronauts epics by BILL MANTLO and MICHAEL GOLDEN.
☐ **PHOENIX: THE UNTOLD STORY #1** — CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BYRNE, and TERRY AUSTIN's Phoenix saga with the original, never before-printed ending. Plus an interview with Chris, John and Terry.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #97** — "The Leopard Man of Darfar." Written by MICHAEL FLEISHER. Pencils and inks by PABLO MARCOS.
☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #13** — "The Widow Alone!" Written by RALPH MACCHIO. Breakdowns by GEORGE PEREZ. Finishes by JOHN BEATTY and BRETT BREEDING. Plus, Tales of Asgard by ALAN ZELENETZ and CHARLES VESS.
☐ **MARVEL AGE #12** — The inside scoop on the new Cosmic Champions maxi-series, plus news and articles on the most current happenings at the House of Ideas.

EPIC COMICS

☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #22** — "Marada the She-Wolf," by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON, in full color! "The Dance" by DAINA GRAZIUNAS and JIM STARLIN. The next chapters of "Generation Zero" and "The Sacred and the Profane." Plus much more. Cover painting by JOHN BOLTON.
☐ **DREADSTAR #8** — Written and pencilled by JIM STARLIN. Inks by KIM DeMULDER.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

☐ **#8: SUPER BOXERS** — Written by JOHN BYRNE. Pencils by RON WILSON. Inks by ARMANDO GIL. Cover painting by BILL SIENKIEWICZ.
☐ **#9: THE FUTURIANS** — Written and drawn by DAVE COCKRUM. A tale of time travel and super heroes and an insidious plot to change the course of history, by the famed X-MEN artist.

SPECIAL PROJECTS and ASSORTED GOODIES

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL TRY-OUT BOOK** — Ever wonder the best way to break into comics? Here at last is the perfect way to try your hand at creating a Marvel comic. We guarantee this is a book like you've never seen before. Its unique format lets you fill in the missing parts. You get to pencil, inks, write, letter, even color pages of this action-packed Spider-Man story. Big Jim Shooter has written how-to explanations, and the book is printed on the same art-size bristol board we use here at Marvel. If you want to pencil a Jim Shooter story, here's your chance. If you want to ink John Romita, Jr.'s pencils, here's your chance. This is the best way we know to simulate a real working situation. It's great practice, the ideal way to prepare samples, and — what's best — a whole lot of fun! On sale now in comic shops and soon in bookstores around the country. This is your big chance! Don't miss it!

THERE ARE LIGHTS IN THE PROFESSOR'S STUDY. WHY IS HE UP SO LATE...

...IS IT BECAUSE OF ME?

BUT OF COURSE! HIS LIFE REVOLVES AROUND MINE THE WAY I BELIEVED THE SUN AND STARS ORBIT THE EARTH.

OF ALL THE FOOLISH NOTIONS-- GASP!

RECEPTION IS WEAKENING, BELOVED. I FEAR THIS SHALL BE OUR LAST CONVERSATION.

UNTIL YOUR RETURN.

FATES WILLING, YES.

HOW DO YOU PUT INTO WORDS WHAT I COULD SAY SO MUCH BETTER WITH A CARESS OR A KISS?

NOW I KNOW HOW MOIRA MacTAGGERT FELT THE DAY I WENT OFF TO WAR AND LEFT HER BEHIND.

WHEN I RETURNED, EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED. THE LOVE WE FELT NO LONGER EXISTED.

THAT MAY YET HAPPEN TO US.

YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK TO FIND OUT.

YOU HAVE MY WORD, CHARLES.

I KNOW. "IF NEED BE, FROM THE GATES OF HELL ITSELF."

I'LL BE WAITING.

FAREWELL, MY LOVE.

FARE THEE WELL, MY HEART.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STAYED, I HAD NO RIGHT TO WATCH, IT WAS SHAMEFUL OF ME-- I'LL SLIP AWAY BEFORE THE PROFESSOR NOTICES...

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE AMARA.

HIDING--OR RUNNING AWAY--CHANGES NOTHING. MAKES NOTHING BETTER.

I THINK WE'RE LONG OVERDUE FOR A CHAT, DON'T YOU?

MAY I ASK, SIR, WHO WAS THAT WOMAN?

LILANDRA, SHE'S THE RULER OF A VAST EMPIRE FAR ACROSS THE COSMOS.

WHY DID SHE LEAVE YOU?

HER SISTER SEIZED THE THRONE. LILANDRA GOES TO WIN IT BACK-- IF SHE CAN.

YOU MISS HER?

YES.

THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU GO WITH HER?

BECAUSE, LIKE HER, I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT TRANSCEND PERSONAL DESIRE. EACH DAY, AMARA, MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU COME INTO THE WORLD.

IF SOMEONE DOES NOT HELP YOU LEARN TO PROPERLY AND SAFELY USE YOUR GIFTS, YOU COULD BRING INCALCULABLE HARM TO YOURSELVES AND OTHERS.

THE WAY I NEARLY DESTROYED ROBERTO'S CITY?

YES. IS THAT A FEAR YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH?

WHAT I WANT, IS TO BE HOME WITH MY FATHER AND MY OWN PEOPLE. BUT MY BEING HERE, IT'S THE SAME THING, ISN'T IT, AS WITH YOU AND LILANDRA. IT'S DUTY.

RESPONSIBILITY. OBLIGATION. THE HALLMARKS OF GROWING UP, BECOMING AN ADULT. IT'S HARD, BUT IT'S A REALITY WE ALL MUST FACE.

HAVE YOU EVER FAILED, WITH A STUDENT?

Oh, YES-- BUT THAT WILL NEVER STOP ME TRYING.

IN THAT, YOU'RE MUCH LIKE MY FATHER.

I CAME TO TELL YOU I WAS GOING HOME. NOW, I THINK I'LL STAY. I'LL DO MY BEST TO LEARN, HONORED PROFESSOR, AND BE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST.

NEXT

DO YOU BELIEVE IN-- MAGIK?

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST